



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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Bowdoin
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

BOWDOIN HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

Project MT RRP BOWD 900(1)

This week has again been productive for the contractor as they move ahead of schedule. The goal this week was to get ready for paving. Originally the thought was to pave the walking trail then the parking lot and access road, finishing up with paving Old Highway 2. However as they say about best laid plans, well you get it. The plan changed; let's pave Old Highway 2 first. Making that change the job Superintendent simply changing the focus of the preparatory work cracked the whip and headed out the crew. The goal was to grade and shape Old Highway 2 this week, which also included pulling out and resetting the existing cattle grate. A lot of work but with no mercy and perhaps a few laughs the crew knew how to get the job done.

The grader and roller darn near wore out the gravel going up and down Old Highway 2 but the end result looks and rides great. Thanks to the grinding up of the old highway asphalt the roller compacted the road nearly back to a paved surface.

On Friday the crew tackled the cattle crossing, again the plan was for a 4-5 hour job. Ok as you might have already guessed with everyone wanting to get an early start for home being Friday and all and such a simple job it would be easy to have the work done and cleaned up by say 1:00 pm. However once we took out the sagging old cattle grate and concrete it was evident why the original unit settled, the underlying ground was soft clay. So change of plan we had to do subexcavation and rebuild the ground under the concrete pads. Out came 2-foot of dirt and clay to be replaced with first a Geogrid plastic layer then 2-foot of rock, constructed in two layers. Final outcome the new installation got finished up around 5:30 with everything cleaned up for the weekend. A lot of work went into the cattle crossing but its there to stay.

Starting next Tuesday morning 12 or so trucks and pups will start hauling mix from Havre. Although our contractor does his own paving the mix will be coming from Baltrusch's asphalt plant. Asphalt paving of Old Highway 2 will be on going starting Tuesday through Friday. We will provide traffic control through the project on a one way system but you might need to wait a few minutes.

If you have any comments or concerns related to the construction please forward these to the listed Email address or call 360-907-0685. If you would like this Newsletter Emailed to you just send me a request to the Email address listed below.

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TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, SEND YOUR REQUEST TO charles.mikkola@fhwa.dot.gov